

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A computer software application, graphical user
interface, and method for entering information concerning a
complex business situation, refining such information in a
stepwise manner through the interface, generating a list of
effective actions for addressing such a business situation,
and storing such information in a knowledge base adapted
for future query and reporting use of such a complex
business situations, is provided. A set of screen
10 sequences allows entry of specific aspects of such a
situation to generate an action list. A situation
appraisal sequence allows entry of concerns stemming from
the situation to prioritize such concerns. A problem
analysis sequence allows entry of causes of a problem, and
15 refining the causes to determine a true cause. A decision
analysis sequence allows entry of alternatives concerning a
decision, and refines such alternatives to determine one
which suits the objective. A potential problem analysis
sequence allows entry of potential problems which might
20 occur, and refines causes and actions which mitigate or
eliminate such potential problems. Such sequences provide
a systematic method to gather and organize information
effectively in order to resolve a complex situation, and to
store such information in a knowledge base for later query
25 and retrieval for the same or similar situations, to
preserve enterprisewide knowledge and expertise.

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